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MANUAL

FOR

THE COMMUNICANTS

OF THE

Mercer-street Presbyterian Church.

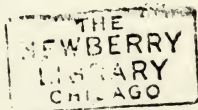
N.Y.

Compiled by order of Session, January 1, 1844.

NEW-YORK:

PRINTED BY J. VAN NORDEN & CO.,
60 William-street.

1844.



The Mercer-street Presbyterian Church was organized October 25, 1835 ; comprising, at its organization, twenty-eight members, received from six churches.

Church Officers.

PASTOR.

Rev. Thomas H. Skinner, D. D., who was installed November 11, 1835.

RULING ELDERS.

John L. Mason, 218 Fourth-street.
 Norman White, 4 Gramercy Park.
 Anson G. Phelps, 31st-street, near 2d Avenue.
 James R. Gibson, 4 Albion Place.
 Thomas S. Nelson, 16 Clinton Place.
 Francis Markoe, 256 Mercer-street.
 Levi Coit, 2 Clinton Place.
 Gustavus U. Richards, 781 Broadway.
 Charles Butler, 11th-street, near 6th Avenue.
 Roe Lockwood, 104 Bleecker-street.
 Edgecumbe H. Blatchford, 2 Bond-street.

DEACONS.

Thomas Denny, 11 Clinton Place.
 Joseph B. Sheffield, 118 Waverly Place.
 George D. Phelps, 131 Clinton Place.
 John G. Nelson, 177 Thompson-street.

CHURCH NOTICES.

Public worship on Lord's Day commences at half-past 10 o'clock, A. M., through the year; and 3 and half-past 3, P. M., according to the season. Prayer-meeting on Sabbath evening at 7, and half-past 7, according to the season. The regular weekly prayer-meeting is held on Tuesday evening, and the lecture on Thursday evening.

The Lord's Supper is administered in this Church, in the afternoon of the second Sabbath in the months of February, April, June, August, October and December.

Preparatory Lecture is held on the Friday evening next preceding each sacramental occasion.

The Monthly Concert for prayer is observed on the first Monday evening of every month.

The Sabbath School, designed principally for the children of the congregation, is held in the Sabbath School Room every Sabbath. Hours of attendance, 9 o'clock, A. M., and 2 or half past 2 o'clock, P. M., according to the season.

An Infant Sabbath School is held at the same hours, in the small room adjoining the Sabbath School Room.

A Bible Class, for young ladies, meets every Sabbath morning, in the Lecture Room, at 9 o'clock.

A Bible Class, for young ladies, meets every Sabbath afternoon, in the small room adjoining the Lecture Room, at 2 o'clock.

A class for the instruction of *Female Domestic*s meets every Sabbath afternoon, at 2 o'clock, in the Session Room, in the rear of the Sabbath School Room.

A Bible Class, for young men, meets in the Session Room, every Sabbath morning, at 9 o'clock.

A Bible Class, for young men of maturer years, meets in the Lecture Room, every Sabbath afternoon, at quarter past 2 o'clock in the winter, and half past 2 in the summer.

It is expected that parents and guardians will cause their children and wards to attend either the Sabbath School or a Bible Class, according to their age. And heads of families are respectfully entreated to recommend to their female domestics attendance upon the means of instruction provided for them.



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CATALOGUE OF COMMUNICANTS.

A.

Augustin Averill
 Margaret, his wife
 Lucy C. Averill
 Joseph Otis Averill
 Catherine Allen
 Tilly Allen
 Frances Maria Allen
 Caroline M. (Stephen) Allen
 George J. Adler
 Jennet Anderson
 Lewis Atterbury
 Catherine B. his wife
 Lewis Atterbury, jr.
 Susan L. his wife

B.

James Boorman
 Mary W. his wife
 George A. Bicknell
 Emeline V. P. his wife
 Gordon Burnham
 Marcia, his wife
 Asa Bigelow, jr.
 Jane B. his wife
 Charles H. Booth
 Elizabeth P. his wife
 Elizabeth G. Bartlett
 Catherine Bushnell
 Mary Bushnell
 Catherine (Henry) Beeckman

Jonathan C. Bartlett
 Thomas Bond, jr.
 David E. Bartlett
 Charles Butler
 Eliza A. his wife
 Bartholomew Brown
 Sarah G. his wife
 Dr. William N. Blakeman
 Helen R. his wife
 Edward Buck
 Eliza G. his wife
 Mary W. (Orsamus) Bushnell
 Edgecumbe H. Blatchford
 Mary Ann, his wife
 Frances Butler
 Aaron Baldwin
 Elizabeth, his wife
 Benjamin F. Butler
 Harriet, his wife
 Mary H. Butler
 Harriet A. Butler
 William H. A. Butler
 Betsey Bedient
 Marshall S. Bidwell
 Clara, his wife
 Sarah Gray Bidwell
 Charles S. Benson
 Hannah, his wife
 Mary S. Bidwell
 Sarah Bulkley
 Margaret (H. W.) Bulkley
 Ann Eliza (Arthur) Bronson
 William G. Bull
 Gardon Buck

Sarah Buck
 Rebecca C. Buck
 Marshall B. Blake
 Henrietta E. his wife
 Dr. Gurdon Buck
 Henrietta Elizabeth, his wife
 Christiana Bradner
 Jerusha Boardman
 Jesse W. Benedict
 William Brown
 Elizabeth Baldwin
 Alexis S. Baker
 Amelia H. his wife
 Matilda J. Bulkley
 Louisa L. Bulkley
 Harriet N. Brown
 Caroline R. Bill

C.

Henry R. Colcraft
 John P. Crosby
 Margaret B. his wife
 Mary B. Cannon
 Levi Coit
 Lydia, his wife
 Caroline (William) Cook
 Josiah A. Carey
 David Codwise
 Martha, his wife
 Ellen C. Carryl
 W. W. Campbell
 Maria, his wife
 Helen (Robert P.) Campbell
 Robert L. Case
 Mary Ann, his wife
 Mary M. Caldwell
 Caroline Carpenter
 Eliza Clark
 John D. Clark
 Noah T. Conklin
 Elizabeth Mary Conklin
 William W. Chester

Hannah M. his wife
 Maria A. Cleaver
 John Culyer
 Sarah, his wife
 William Cutter
 Margaret D. his wife
 Job Chandler
 Fanny B. his wife
 Jane H. Campbell
 Harriet A. Cutter
 Annette Cotton
 Mrs. — Callen
 Phebe Clark
 Phebe (Samuel) Clark.

D.

Richard P. Dana
 Juliet H. his wife
 Mary A. Dickenson
 Juliet Dickenson
 Theodore Dwight, jr.
 Ellen, his wife
 Alfred De Forest
 Mary (Benjamin) De Forest
 Margaret (Geo. B.) De Forest
 Martha Dudley
 Hannah C. Draper
 Charles E. Darling
 Adeline E. his wife
 Sophia Louisa Darling
 James Richards Dey
 Thomas Denny
 Sarah S. T. his wife
 Pamilla B. (Chas.) De Forest
 Sophia (B.) De Forest.

E.

Amos B. Eaton
 Elizabeth, his wife
 Dr. Edward Earle
 Margaret E. his wife

Rev. H. P Elliott
 Martha Ann, his wife
 Justus E. Earle
 Margaret M. his wife
 Cornelius Earle
 Maria, his wife
 Sarah C. Eaton

F.

Dr. James C. Fisher
 Eliza, his wife
 Catherine Fletcher
 James P. Fisher
 Eliza Ann Ford

G.

James R. Gibson
 Catherine, his wife
 Jane Gibson
 Catherine Eliza Gibson
 Emma Gibson
 Julia A. D. Gibson
 Frances J. Gibson
 Thomas Gillilan
 Mary Ann, his wife
 Margaret Eliza Gillies
 Catherine (Geo. C.) Goddard
 Dr. Leonard D. Gale
 Ann Eliza, his wife
 Julia E. (Horace W.) Goodwin
 John A. Gunn
 Lydia P. Green
 Ann Jane Gillies
 Mary Green
 Darius Geer
 Chary, his wife
 Mary Geer

Amanda C. Geer
 Emeline M. Geer
 Samuel Green
 George Gifford

H.

William Hurry
 Adeline H. his wife
 David G. Hazedleton
 Ellen, his wife
 Benjamin W. Howe
 Hannah Hoyt
 James M. Hoppin
 John Hoyt
 Eliza Harding
 George B. Hitchcock
 David L. D. Huntington
 Aroet N. Hatch
 Harriet, his wife
 Sarah Hall
 Margaret H. Hall
 Electa Hitchcock
 Sophia Hitchcock
 Caroline E. Hitchcock
 John P. Huntington
 Sarah C. his wife
 Lewis H. Hobby
 Lucretia, his wife
 Jonathan Hunt
 Abigail, his wife
 Richard T. Haines
 Francisca E. H. his wife
 Elizabeth Haines
 Sarah Haines
 Elizabeth Hosten
 Mary W. Hosmer
 Margaret Harper
 H. O. Howland

Francis Markoe
 Sarah, his wife
 Maria Mead
 Rachael Allen Meeker
 R. H. McCurdy
 Gertrude M. McCurdy
 Robert W. Mead
 Clarissa, his wife
 Martha Murray
 Susan W. Morse
 Frederick Mead
 Mary E. his wife
 Hartman Markoe
 Elizabeth C. his wife
 Abby H. Montague
 Mary Ann Middlebrook
 Dr. Chauncey L. Mitchell
 Phidelia W. Marshall
 Homer Morgan
 Sarah McLaughlin
 Janet McKinley
 Janet, her daughter
 Edward J. Mann
 Abby, his wife

N.

Thomas S. Nelson
 Mary S. his wife
 Jane Frances Nelson
 Maria (Moses) Nixon
 Heman Norton
 Julia, his wife
 Robert Newell
 Ann, his wife
 Jeremiah Norman
 Frances, his wife
 Rachel Norton
 William Curtiss Noyes
 Caroline Noon

John G. Nelson
 Eunice R. his wife
 Annette Newell

O.

Mary Osborne
 Margaret Orr
 Maria L. Oscanyan

P.

Anson G. Phelps
 Olivia, his wife
 Anson G. Phelps, jr.
 Olivia E. Phelps
 Harriet (Samuel M.) Pond
 Dr. Willard Parker
 Mary Ann, his wife
 James Purdy
 Martha, his wife
 Sarah S. Phelps
 George D. Phelps
 Mary, his wife
 Harvey P. Peet
 Sarah L. his wife
 Isaac Lewis Peet
 Rose Ann Porter
 Harriet H. (Rev. Dr.) Peters
 Harriet A. Peters
 Henry H. Penniman
 Newton Platt
 Elvira, his wife
 James N. Platt
 Evelina C. Platt
 Samuel Painter
 Hannah Maria, his wife

Catherine Pyke
 Pelatiah Perit
 Maria, his wife
 Mary Elizabeth Pike
 Isaac N. Phelps
 Sarah M. his wife

Q.

J. W. Quincy

R.

Elizabeth Rogers
 Joel H. Ross
 Eliza, his wife
 Elizabeth C. Robbins
 Abigail Riggs
 Emma Riggs
 Gustavus U. Richards
 Electa B. his wife
 Matthew P. Reed
 Catherine Reed
 Susan Rodgers
 James Russel
 Grace Rudd
 Marshall O. Roberts
 Catherine D. his wife
 Sarah Jane Reynolds
 William Rockwell
 Frelove, his wife
 Lydia Frances Rockwell

S.

Louisa Shipman
 Eliza Stayley
 Frances L. (Rev. Dr.) Skinner
 Mary S. (Rev. T.H. Skinner, jr.)
 Caroline (James) Stokes
 Eliza Stayley
 William E. Shepard
 Elizabeth A. his wife
 John L. Safford
 Betsey (U. R.) Scribner
 Sarah Starr
 Adelphi Smith
 Eliza Stanley
 Elizabeth S. Spencer
 Charles Scribner
 Julia A. Scribner
 Lambert Suydam
 Ann Eliza, his wife
 Joseph B. Sheffield
 Sarah, his wife
 Melania Smith
 Rebecca Squiers
 Evelina Small
 William Shaw
 Charlotte, his wife
 John Sayre
 Elizabeth, his wife
 Elizabeth Sayre
 Julia Sayre
 Peter Schorey
 William H. Smith
 Harriet, his wife
 Lucy (L. C.) Saxton
 Henry M. Schieffelin
 Sarah Louisa, his wife
 Patience W. Seymour
 Lucretia M. Starr
 Charles Saxton
 Mary Sutherland
 Catherine Sutherland
 Margaret Sheriden

Henry Suydam
 Mary, his wife
 Arabella Sherman
 Mary Starr
 Henry Shaw
 Margaret Smith
 William L. Stone
 Susan P. his wife
 Edwin Sexton
 Catherine, his wife
 Sidney A. Schieffelin
 Elizabeth (Edward) Schenck

T.

Elizabeth Turell
 Martha Torbush
 George M. Tracy
 Stella L. his wife
 Elizabeth Tucker
 John S. Taylor
 Anna R. R. his wife
 Mary Tilton
 James Tucker
 Elizabeth Trumbull
 John A. Thompson
 Najah Taylor
 Isabella L. Taylor
 Susan Taylor
 Elizabeth L. Tichenor
 Daniel E. Tooker
 Elizabeth N. his wife

U.

Eliza Umpleby

V.

Susan B. Van Amringe
 Elizabeth O. Van Amringe
 Abby K. (George O.) Van
 Amringe

Frances Van Duzer
 Augustus Van Amringe

W.

Eli Wainwright
 Mary M. his wife
 William P. Wainwright
 Mary P. Wainwright
 Norman White
 Mary A. his wife
 Mary S. White
 Mary B. (J. W.) Wheeler
 Abigail Wickham
 Dr. James A. Washington
 Anna, his wife
 Henry W. Warner
 Susan B. Warner
 Anna M. B. Warner
 William P. Warriner
 Sarah V. T. Wilder
 Frances E. Wright
 Horace B. Washburn
 Caroline, his wife
 John Wiley
 Elizabeth, his wife
 Lydia Wiley
 Mary Wiley
 Eliza T. Warren
 William Wood
 Margaret K. his wife
 Joshua F. Worth
 Shepard Wells
 Mary A. Worth
 Sarah E. Wayland
 Mary A. Wayland
 Rachel Ann (R. H.) Winslow
 Frances L. Warner
 Francis Markoe Wright
 William A. Wheelock
 Samuel Whitney
 L. B. Ward
 A. D. his wife



THE
FORM OF ADMISSION
INTO THE
MERCER-STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The Minister addresses the persons to be admitted, in the following words :—

You Believe that there is one God, who subsists in three equally divine Persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

You Believe that the Scriptures of the old and new Testaments were given by inspiration of God, and are our only Rule of Faith and Practice.

You Believe that all mankind are fallen, and destitute of holiness, until renewed by the Holy Spirit.

You Believe that for the Recovery of fallen man, the Son, the Second Person in the Godhead, became incarnate ; suffered in the flesh the death of the cross, to atone for human sin ; rose from the dead the third day ;

ascended into Heaven ; sitteth on the right hand of God ; and maketh intercession for those who come to God by Him.

You Believe that men are saved, not by works of their own righteousness, but by renouncing such works, and believing, with a penitent and self-condemning spirit, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ ; persuaded that a sinner can in no other way be justified before God, but by faith in his Atonement and Righteousness.

You Believe that no man, of himself, embraces this way of salvation, unless induced and determined so to do by the Agency of the Holy Spirit ; and that this Agency is exerted in a free and sovereign manner, according to the Counsel of infinite Wisdom and Goodness.

You Believe that the subjects of the Holy Spirit's renewing influence, are in some degree holy as God is holy : and submit themselves absolutely to God's will, as the law of their being ; and though but imperfectly sanctified while in this world, do, by God's grace, persevere in resisting sin and following holiness, until they pass into the Heavenly state.

You Believe that there will be a Resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the

unjust; and a day of universal judgment, when the wicked shall be punished with everlasting destruction, and the righteous inherit everlasting life.

You also hope and believe that you have personally experienced, in some measure, the power of these great truths of our holy religion; and that under the renewing influence of the Holy Ghost, you have renounced your life of sin and the spirit of the world, and embraced Christ as your Saviour, and devoted yourselves, absolutely and forever, to the service of God.

And thus hoping and believing, you do now solemnly declare and avouch the Lord Jehovah to be your God; and Jesus Christ to be your Saviour; and the Holy Spirit to be your Sanctifier:

And unto this Triune God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, you do, without reserve, give yourselves away, in a Covenant never to be revoked, to be his willing servants forever.

You do also bind yourselves by Covenant to this Church, to watch over us in the Lord, to seek our peace and edification, and to submit to the Government and Discipline of Christ as here administered.

To all this, in the Divine Strength, you do severally assent. *They express assent.*

In consequence of these your professions and promises, we do affectionately receive you as members of this Church ; and, in the name of Christ, declare you entitled to all its privileges. We welcome you to fellowship with us, in the Labours and Blessings of the Gospel ; and on our part engage to watch over you, and to seek your edification.

SELF-EXAMINATION.

1. Do I regularly attend the ordinances of public worship ?

2. Are my children baptized, instructed in the truth, commended to God in prayer, and educated for eternity ?

3. Do my children attend the Sabbath-schools, the Bible-classes, and other means of instruction ?

4. Do I worship God in my family, and acknowledge him with thanksgiving at my meals ?

5. Do I read my Bible, keep my heart, and pray in my closet ?

6. Have I a lively hope of salvation ?

7. What influence has religion upon my habitual temper ? Do I maintain a meek and quiet spirit amidst the trials of life ?

8. What am I doing for Christ and the souls of men ?

9. Am I concerned for the heathen and for the universal spread of the Gospel : and how do I practically show my concern ?

10. Is my religion merely negative, not doing any harm, or am I positively active in devising and executing schemes of goodness ?

11. Do I cultivate a fervent affection for the whole family of believers, especially those with whom I am more immediately connected in church covenant ?

12. Do I daily practice self-denial for Christ's sake ?

13. Am I careful of my deportment, especially in the presence of unbelievers ; that I do nothing to disgust them with religion ; that I say nothing needlessly to wound their feelings, or selfishly to gratify my own ; that I avoid all artificial appearances, all affectation, bigotry, bitterness, useless disputation, formality, distance, moroseness, levity, extravagance ; while I maintain an habitual sense of the Divine Presence, simple trust in God, firmness in the truth, a desire to communicate the knowledge of it, and a readiness to co-operate with others in its advancement ?

ADVICE TO CHRISTIANS.

BY PRESIDENT EDWARDS.

1. I would advise you to keep up as great a strife and earnestness in religion, as if you knew yourself to be in a state of nature, and were seeking conversion. We advise persons under conviction, to be earnest and violent for the kingdom of Heaven; but when they have attained to conversion, they ought not to be the less watchful, laborious, and earnest in the whole work of religion, but the more so; for they are under infinitely greater obligations. For want of this, many persons, in a few months after their conversion, have begun to lose their sweet and lively sense of spiritual things, and to grow cold and dark; and to have "pierced themselves through with many sorrows;" whereas, if they had done as the Apostle did, (Phil. iii. 12—14,) their path would have been "as the shining light, that shines more and more unto the perfect day."

2. Do not leave off seeking, striving, and praying for the very same things that we exhort unconverted persons to strive for, and a degree of which you have had already in

conversion. Pray that your eyes may be opened; that you may receive sight; that you may know yourself, and be brought to God's footstool; and that you may see the glory of God in Christ, and may be raised from the dead, and have the love of Christ shed abroad in your heart. Those who have most of these things, have need still to pray for them; for there is so much blindness and hardness, pride and death remaining, that they still need to have that work of God wrought upon them further to enlighten and enliven them, that shall be bringing them out of darkness into God's marvellous light, and be a kind of new conversion and resurrection from the dead. There are very few requests that are proper for an impenitent man, that are not also, in some sense, proper for the godly.

3. When you hear a sermon, hear for yourself. Though what is spoken may be more especially directed to the unconverted, or to those that, in other respects, are in different circumstances from yourself, yet, let the chief intent of your mind be to consider, "In what respect is this applicable to me? and what improvement ought I to make of this, for my own soul's good?"

4. Though God has forgiven and forgot-



ten your past sins, yet do not forget them yourself: often remember, what a wretched bond-slave you were in the land of Egypt. Often bring to mind your particular acts of sin before conversion; as the blessed Apostle Paul is often mentioning his old blaspheming, persecuting spirit, and his injuriousness to the renewed; humbling his heart, and acknowledging that he was "the least of the Apostles," and not worthy "to be called an Apostle," and the "least of all saints," and the "chief of sinners;" and be often confessing your old sins to God, and let that text be often in your mind, (Ezek. xvi. 63,) "that thou mayest remember and be confounded, and never open thy mouth any more, because of thy shame, when I am pacified toward thee for all that thou hast done, saith the Lord God."

5. Remember, that you have more cause, on some accounts, a thousand times, to lament and humble yourself for sins that have been committed since conversion, than before, because of the infinitely greater obligations that are upon you to live to God, and to look upon the faithfulness of Christ, in unchangeably continuing his loving kindness, notwithstanding all your great unworthiness since your conversion.

6. Be always greatly abased for your remaining sin, and never think that you lie low enough for it; but yet be not discouraged or disheartened by it; for though we are exceeding sinful, yet we have an Advocate with the Father Jesus Christ the righteous; the preciousness of whose blood, the merit of whose righteousness, and the greatness of whose love and faithfulness, infinitely overtop the highest mountains of our sins.

7. When you engage in the duty of prayer, or come to the Lord's Supper, or attend any other duty of Divine worship, come to Christ as Mary Magdalen did (Luke, vii. 37, 38) come, and cast yourself at his feet, and kiss and pour forth upon them the sweet perfumed ointment of Divine love, out of a pure and broken heart, as she poured the precious ointment out of her pure broken alabaster box.

8. Remember, that pride is the worst viper that is in the heart; the greatest disturber of the soul's peace, and of sweet communion with Christ: it was the first sin committed, and lies lowest in the foundation of Satan's whole building, and is with the greatest difficulty rooted out, and is the most hidden, secret, and deceitful of all lusts, and often

creeps insensibly into the midst of religion ; even, sometimes, under the disguise of humility itself.

9. That you may pass a correct judgment concerning yourself, always look upon those as the best discoveries and the best comforts that have most of these two effects: those that make you least and lowest, and most like a child, and those that most engage and fix your heart, in a full and firm disposition to deny yourself for God, and to spend and be spent for him.

10. If at any time you fall into doubts about the state of your soul, in dark and dull frames of mind, it is proper to review your past experience ; but do not consume too much time and strength in this way : rather apply yourself with all your might to an earnest pursuit, after renewed experience, new light, and new lively acts of faith and love. One new discovery of the glory of Christ's face will do more towards scattering clouds of darkness in one minute, than examining old experiences, by the best marks that can be given, through a whole year.

11. When the exercise of grace is low, and corruption prevails, and by that means fear prevails ; do not desire to have fear cast

out any other way, than by the reviving and prevailing of love in the heart ; by this, fear will be effectually expelled, as darkness in a room vanishes away when the pleasant beams of the sun are let into it.

12. When you counsel and warn others, do it earnestly, and affectionately, and thoroughly ; and when you are speaking to your equals, let your warnings be intermixed with expressions of your sense of your own unworthiness, and of the sovereign grace that makes you differ.

13. Under special difficulties, or when in great need of, or great longings after, any particular mercy, for yourself or others, set apart a day for secret prayer and fasting by yourself alone ; and let the day be spent, not only in petitions for the mercies you desire, but in searching your heart, and looking over your past life, and confessing your sins before God : not as is wont to be done in public prayer, but by a very particular rehearsal, before God, of the sins of your past life, from your childhood hitherto, before and after conversion, with the circumstances and aggravations attending them, spreading all the abominations of your heart, very particularly, and fully as possible before him.

14. Do not let the adversaries of the cross

have occasion to reproach religion on your account. How holy should the children of God, the redeemed and the beloved of the Son of God, behave themselves. Therefore, “walk as children of the light and of the day,” and “adorn the doctrine of God your Saviour:” and especially, abound in what are called the Christian virtues, that make you like the Lamb of God; be meek and lowly of heart, and full of pure, heavenly, and humble love to all; abound in deeds of love to others, and self-denial for others: and let there be in you a disposition to account others better than yourself.

15. In all your course, walk with God, and follow Christ, as a little, poor, helpless child, taking hold of Christ’s hand, keeping your eye on the marks of the wounds in his hands and side, whence came the blood that cleanses you from sin, and hiding your nakedness under the skirt of the white shining robes of his righteousness.

16. Pray much for the Ministers and the Church of God; especially, that he would carry on his glorious work which he has now begun, till the world shall be full of his glory.

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MANCHESTER

